

## Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The golf tournament at Arabia Golf Course was completed last Sunday and the winners were C. D. and Bobby Bounds. Play was interrupted on Saturday for about 45 minutes due to the rain.

Raz Autry said after the tournament that he was resigning as chairman of the tournament committee. It seems that other people in the county, besides this writer, are blaming him for the rainfall. Raz said that Sheriff Dave Barrington told him this last week.

I will say that Raz and Joe Upchurch have done an outstanding job with the tournaments at Arabia for the past five years. Thanks.

All kidding aside as far as the rain is concerned, but in my fifty odd years living in Hoke County I don't believe I can remember it raining for so many days in one month. The chart next week will tell us for sure, but it seems to me it has rained some for every day but three.

So, the chart must show somewhere around 10 inches for August and as this is being written Tuesday morning, the weatherman says 40 percent chance for today.

The football season is upon us once again and the first game will be played at Hoke High Stadium on Friday night, September 6, at 8:00 o'clock. Red Springs will try out the Bucks in the first game of 1974.

This year for the first time in many years season tickets are being sold. You can save right much money by buying a season ticket. Even if you don't care that much about football this is one of the few things you can save money on these days. So, buy your ticket this week and be a Booster of the Bucks.

The curb and gutter work that is being done in Raeford will help the looks of the city when completed. It will also aid in stopping washouts on the streets and yards.

At the rate the city is going with these projects, it will not be long before all streets will be curbed, guttered and paved.

The bids on the county office building were a surprise to most of the citizens of Hoke County. I agreed with the county manager that the slow down in construction work had a lot to do with it. This is not a good sign for times, but it was good news to the county commissioners.

School opened Monday and from all reports everything was in smooth working order. This just goes to show what planning will do to get things to run right.

Lion Charlie Daniels of the Raeford Club reports that the broom sale held Monday night was very successful. He said that over \$900 worth of brooms were sold and that he personally called on over 30 persons and only one turned him down.

The club wishes to thank the people of Raeford for the cooperation in this project.

## Area Incidents

### Lawmen Link Auto Thefts, Break-in

City and county law enforcement officers are seeking an escapee from McCain for questioning in connection with a break-in and two auto thefts.

A break-in in sometime during the weekend was reported to the sheriff's department by Hugh Currie. A window at the lumber yard office in the Timberland section had been forced open and the keys to a 1966 truck and

### DSS Adds Two To Staff

Two new staff members were added to the Department of Social Services last week, director Ben Niblock announced. They are Mrs. Dayna Pate and Robert Matthews.

Mrs. Pate, a native of Atlanta, is a case worker with the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program. She is a graduate of Wake Forest, and prior to joining the social services department, worked in the insurance field. She is replacing Mrs. Jane Miller, who retired.



**SCHOOL DAYS** - Monday marked the beginning of school days for Hoke County children and this group of first graders arriving at McLauchlin Elementary exhibited emotions ranging from vague anxiety to terror. Brightly colored name tags were affixed to each student to eliminate confusion over assigned rooms.

## Buses Rolled Monday Taking Kids To Class

As perennial as leaves in autumn and yet new each year...the ritual of opening day at school.

Buses rolled Monday morning, taking students to a half day of orientation at the seven Hoke County schools.

And things went smoothly, according to school superintendent Raz Autry.

"It was just real smooth," Autry said. "Easiest opening day in quite awhile."

Allen Edwards, principal at Hoke High, echoed the feeling.

"I'd say opening day was real smooth. We had very few problems."

Buses to Hoke High ran with few hitches, Edwards said. A dead battery delayed one bus and another bus was ahead of schedule.

The enrollment figures held few surprises also, Autry said.

Total county enrollment on the second day of school was 4,532, Autry said. This was slightly lower than the

4,850 reported on opening day last year. However, according to figures compiled by the N.C. Association of Educators, first grade enrollments have declined steadily in the state during the past decade.

Enrollment figures for the schools were South Hoke, 575; Scurlock, 546; West Hoke, 377; Raeford Elementary, 400; McLauchlin, 352; Upchurch 909 and Hoke High, 1373.

Attendance for the high school was some hundred students lower than expected, Autry said. He said harvest conditions might account for the loss.

Enrollment at McLauchlin was higher this year, he said, because two more kindergarten classes were added this year. The kindergarten enrollment increased from 292 to 350 students.

After classes this week, the schools will close Monday for Labor Day.

## Bank Re-Opens With Safety Glass

Equipped with bullet-resistant glass, the Sunset Branch of the Bank of Raeford re-opened Monday morning.

It has been closed the past two years following a holdup there June 21, 1972, which netted the robber \$5,999. The holdup man was not apprehended.

New tellers at the branch are protected from the walk-in lobby by panels of bullet-resistant glass. A locked steel door provides the only access from the lobby into the tellers' compartment. Money is passed between the two compartments in sliding drawers similar to those at the drive-in windows.

The drive-in windows are also protected with the reinforced glass.

"I feel pretty safe with the new glass," said Mrs. Sarah Maxwell, who was one of the two tellers at the bank when it was robbed. "I don't think I could work out here again if I didn't feel safe."

## Senior Citizens

Raeford Senior Citizens Friendship Club will meet Sept. 3 at 2:30 p.m. at Raeford United Methodist Church.

James C. Lentz will talk about the book containing anecdotes and history which he has written about Hoke County.

## Items Needed Early For N-J

The News-Journal office will be closed Monday for Labor Day.

News items and advertising should reach the office as soon as possible for inclusion in the Sept. 5 edition.

## Council Accepts Bid

Bids for water storage tank reconduition were opened Thursday by the city council in a special meeting and the contract was awarded Tuesday night at a special meeting before the public hearing.

Eight firms bid on the project to reconduition the city's two water storage tanks.

Low bid was received from Lee & Osborne Industrial Painting Company, Brooklawn, N. J., who offered to complete the work in 75 days for \$29,210.

Other bids were Bease-Johnson Co., McMurry, Pa., 90 days, \$29,842; Steel Tank Service Company, Waxhaw, N. C., 180 days, \$32,621; Charlotte Tank Lining Co., Mt. Pleasant, N. C., 270 days, \$50,518; W. H. Camp, Inc., Chattanooga, Tenn., 120 days, \$45,365; R. Skip Bryan Utilities Services, Madison, N.C., 90 days, \$45,750; Inter-State Contracting and Coating Co., Inc., Zelenople, Pa., 150 days, \$44,900 and Burn and Bullard, Raleigh, 120 days, \$59,200.

The low bid from the New Jersey firm was accepted. Total cost of the project is budgeted at \$33,000.

## Reporter Joins N-J

Marty Vega has joined the staff of The News-Journal as a reporter-photographer.

Mrs. Vega is a native of Detroit and attended the University of Denver where she studied broadcast journalism.

Prior to coming to North Carolina, she worked in the Washington, D.C. area from 1970, primarily in the field of retail services.

Mrs. Vega lives with her husband and four cats in Fayetteville.

## Holiday Alters Meeting Dates

Labor Day holiday will alter the schedule for the regular county meetings for September.

The board of county commissioners will meet Tuesday, Sept. 3, at 9 a.m. at the board of education conference room.

The city council and the board of education will both meet the second Monday of the month on Sept. 9. The city council will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the municipal building and the school board will meet at 7:30 at the board of education building.

The county commissioners will hold a public hearing on the school bonds Sept. 9 at 8 p.m.

## Citizens Growl Over Leash Law

Proposals to rezone an area on Business 401 from residential to commercial usage prompted protest Tuesday night at part one of a joint public hearing and a proposed city leash law drew spirited debate in the second half.

The crowd was estimated at 35 for the zoning hearing and grew to about 70 for the leash law.

In the second half of the evening, Mayor John K. McNeill opened the leash law discussion by asking city attorney Palmer Wilcox to read the proposed ordinance. Then he divided the discussion into those who favored the law and those who opposed.

The crowd appeared evenly divided. Among those who spoke in favor of the law were Mr. and Mrs. James T. Wilkerson II, who initiated the petition to adopt a leash law; Leo Edwards and Linn Webb. They cited dog bites, scattered garbage, dog packs and fights as reasons for the law. But one of the most emotional spokesmen was the Rev. P. O. Lee.

He favored the leash law, he said "because I love my dogs and therefore I keep them confined.

"I love my neighbors and respect my neighbors and so I keep my dogs confined. That's the first reason I want the law.

"The second reason is this: See this stick? I don't dare walk uptown unless I keep this stick. When a man reaches 78 years old he has a perfect right to walk uptown without fighting dogs," he said. Lee said on a recent trip he had fought off four dogs going to town and five dogs returning.

"And for the third reason," he said, "I recently lost my wife, and she was the dearest thing to me on this earth. I walk every day to the graveyard and I can't stand to have dogs lying on my wife's grave and scratching on my wife's grave. No sooner than I put down flowers - artificial flowers - than some dog has scattered them about."

"I don't think the city should allow dogs to run wild where they can scratch and lie on my wife's grave."

Glen Langdon, opposing the law, said he realized that some dogs caused trouble and that he had been bitten. However, he said, he had had two bikes stolen from his home while his dogs were confined. His wife, he said, preferred to have the dogs around the carport for protection.

"I think we have enough laws now," Langdon said. "I don't want to be punished because there are 50 dogs in town whose owners don't care enough to keep them home."

Gary Atkinson strongly opposed the law. "I hadn't thought much about the leash law until the other day," he said. "But my little girl was coming home and four boys got after her. I don't know what would have happened if it hadn't been for our dog."

Hubert Cameron spoke several times against the law. He urged that dogs be allowed to run free unless they caused trouble. Those dogs should be requested to be confined, he said.

"Confining a dog is the way to make a mean dog," he said. Lockey McDonald said his was a plea for moderation. Citizens have a right to walk the streets without being bitten, he said. But he would hate for a child to lose the experience of growing up with a dog because of a leash law.

The meeting was orderly and ended promptly at 9 p.m. by the mayor.

The first part of the two-hour hearing was devoted to proposed changes in the zoning ordinance. This was the second hearing held on the subject by the planning board and was scheduled after revisions were made to allow for limited mobile home parking.

The proposed change of an area to R-6 zoning, which would allow mobile homes on single lots, drew approval from the approximately 35 persons attending the zoning hearing.

The R-6 area proposed will be located within the one-mile jurisdiction from Rockfish Creek, north of U.S. 401 by-pass to the Burlington area.

Jim Kier of the state Department of Natural and Economic Resources, explained that mobile homes would have to be tied down to be considered permanent structures and that the lot size would have to conform to a minimum size of 7500 square feet, or 75 by 100 feet.

The second proposed change, to rezone an area along Business 401 from residential to commercial usage, sparked protests from several residents of Reaves Street.

"This is a residential area, and we don't want it commercial," said Mrs. Daniel A. Hendrix. "We don't have much traffic on our street and we have little children playing around."

Neill McFadyen defended the proposed change, saying that the character of the property along the highway was not residential since the Armory, the health department and the turkey plant were all located in that area.

Hendrix asked what further means of protest were available and indicated that he intended to continue to fight any change in zoning.

Kier also outlined several ordinance and land development projects his department has completed for the planning board.

## Monday, Labor Day

All government offices in the city and county will be closed Monday, Sept. 2, in observance of the Labor Day holiday. Schools will not hold classes.

Banks will close on Monday. There will be no mail delivery or pickups within the county, but the Post Office will be open for box users.

## Watson Is Named To Head McCain

John C. Watson, Jr., has been appointed administrator of McCain Hospital, the 300-bed pulmonary disease hospital in Hoke County, it was announced this week by J. S. Lennon, administrator of the North Carolina Specialty Hospital System.

The Charlotte native has held administrative positions at Bladen County Hospital in Elizabethtown; Lenoir Memorial Hospital, Kinston, and Union Memorial at Monroe. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the North Carolina Hospital Association and the American College of Hospital Administrators.

In addition, Watson served on the Mecklenburg-Union Health and Hospital Council, was a member of a 1969 Task Force on Linking Health Facilities of the Governor's Advisory Council on Comprehensive Health Planning and the executive committee of the Piedmont Carolinas Served Center from 1969 to 1971. He served in the United States Navy 1942-1946.

A 1936 graduate of Duke University, Watson is married to the former Elizabeth Flemming of Sumter, S.C., who is now teaching 8th and 9th grade science in the Pinehurst Middle School. The Watsons have three children, two sons, both of whom are also Duke graduates, one presently in his second



John C. Watson, Jr.